NORTHWEST
VINTAGE RADIO
SOCIETY
CALL LETTER

April '87 Vol. 13 No.4

The Titanic

Page 8. - Interview with a radio operator who heard it on that fateful night in April .

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The **CALL LETTER**, is published monthly, as the only official publication of the **Northwest Vintage Radio Society** which is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month (July and August omitted) at the Buena Vista Clubhouse in Oregon City.

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Librarian--------- Chuck Kibler 678-5066

DATE : April 11th, 1987
TIME : 11:00
PLACE : Buena Vista Clubhouse
ADDRESS : 16th & Jackson streets
Oregon City, Oregon

Troubleshooting the T.R.F. *

Ray will troubleshoot a TRF set during the meeting. In fact, he requests that members bring TRF chassis which may have some trouble. Try to bring the ones that are open and can be easily seen. Bring along the schematic if possible. He makes no guarantees but will follow the logical steps to simple repair of a classic set (or two).

Your editor takes off his hat to Ray for being willing to make the meetings more informative in a way that few others have dared to try!

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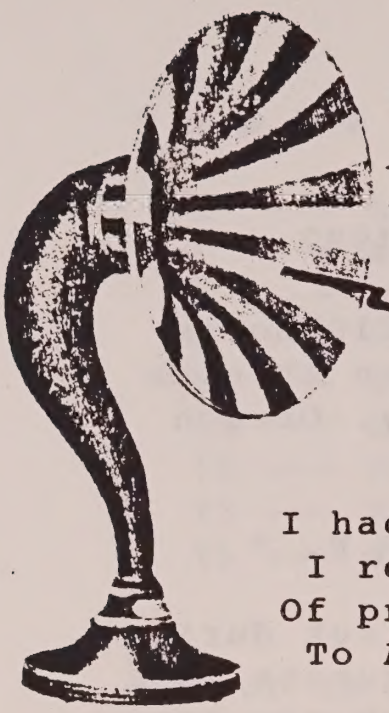

ATMOSPHERICA

By J

The Faux Pas

I had a dream the other night,
I remember the details well;
Of presenting my Tape Recorder
To Alexander Graham Bell.

But on sober reflection, I wish
To Gosh I hadn't done 'er,
Because I'd clean forgotten
He had no A.C. Juice to run 'er !

From the Tom James Collection
Originally from December, 1977

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TUBES----------COMPONENTS

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Part of Radio Passing Away

JOHN HIESTAND

Known to his friends as Bud, John Hiestand began in radio in the late 20s when he broadcast local football games on his home built 5 watt transmitter in Northern California. When his folks moved to Pasadena, he became active in the Pasadena playhouse. It was here that Bud got started in the announcer roles that are so familiar to old radio buffs. Bud had a part in a play when Ken Niles saw him and was impressed with the job. Ken got Bud his first announcer position on CALLING ALL CARS.

Bud's voice is timeless. From his first announcing job to the voice overs he did for television shows in the seventies, you seldom knew the name but you always recognized the voice. His credits include THE GULF SCREEN GUILD SHOW, OLSON & JOHNSON, LET GEORGE DO IT, BOLD VENTURE, THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE, KAY KYSERS KOLLEGE OF MISICAL KNOWLEDGE, AND TEH NEW EDGER BERGEN HOUR. And you may remember his familiar voice as the announcer the Christmas favorite THE CINNAMON BEAR, and on TV the voice behind THE WALTONS and PAPER CHASE.

Mr. Hiestand passed away on February 5th, 1987. Radio and Television friends will miss him as a valued colleague, the rest of us will miss a friendly voice that has been "with us" for nearly 60 years.

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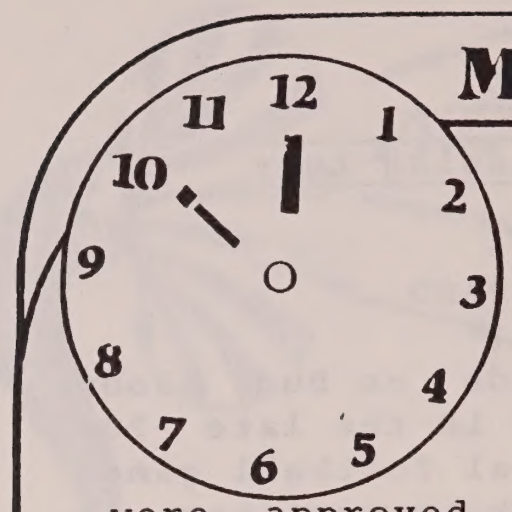
Meeting Minutes



The March Northwest Vintage Radio Society meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by president Ray Nelson. The minutes of the February 14th meeting were approved as printed in the CALL LETTER.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted with the current balance of $1,191.00.

GOOD and WELFARE:

Dan Wills underwent orthoscopic knee surgery recently. The club wishes Dan a successful recovery. Visitors, Frank and Richard were welcome to our meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Society "Pres." and "Electronic Whiz-Bang" Ray Nelson will show us how to repair TRF sets during at our April meeting. Look for upcoming meeting topics to be published soon.

Various radio related video tapes are available for society members. Jim Mason has a copy of "remembering When . . .", Jerry Talbott has a catalog of PBS tapes and somewhere floating among society members is a tape of restoring cabinets.

NEW BUSINESS:

The society is looking for participants for this year's Summer radio display at the Antique Auto show at Forest Grove. Contact Jerry Talbott for details soon.

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There was a tight race for the month's competition of Automobile radios.
Contest Winners:

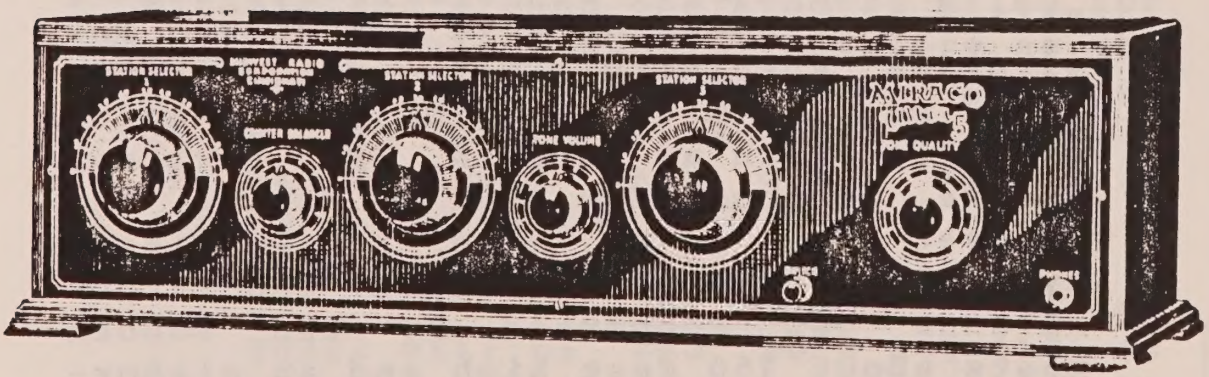
1st place
Jerry Talbott with a 1934 General Electric "auto-home portable" Arm-rest radio.
2nd place
Rudy Zvarich with a Firestone "new, Old Stock" classic.
3rd place
Rudy Zvarich with an Atwater Kent (early 30s)

The society members are in favor of forming a permanent display of radios. Some good locations have been suggested. This could be a fun project for anyone interested.

Leads and Needs:

The society's clubhouse firewood stock is rapidly dwindling please remove all cabinet hardware before donating.Meeting adjourned 11:30 am.

Norris Jackson
Recording Secretary.



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The TITANIC'S RADIO

(By Dick Karman)

On the Titanic's maiden voyage, 75 years ago this month, the legend goes that she struck an iceberg which tore a "gash in her hull over 300 feet long". We know now that this isn't so. But no matter what the cause,the Titanic sunk on April 12, 1912. Her remains being found by woods hole explorations only answered some of the questions. Many will go unanswered. Some will be answered in documents like this portion of a taped interview with Joe Danko who was working wireless station NAH in New York on the morning after:

[1965 interview with
Radio Operator Joe Danko]

"On March 1st [1911] after four months of practical machine shop, and shipboard electrical instruction, and only two weeks of wireless theory, I was suddenly assigned to radio duty at the yard radio station NAH. The station boasted of a Stone 15 KW 120 cycles rotary gap transmitter with tapped primary and secondary Helixes for changing wave lengths. The wireless specialty IP-76 slide tuner could be used with a choice of detector crystals, such as Parakin, Iron Pirites, Galena, Carborundum, and so forth. The headset was a novel wireless specialty type with adjustable magnets. The T-type antenna was supported by two wooden masts about 150 feet high and an elaborate copper plate ground system was buried under the station and around the station located between the two masts.

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"The original open spark gap fed by battery actuated vibrator coils, like the popular Ford ignition coils, followed by the 50 or 60 cycled powered induction coils, were gradually giving way to the 120 to 500 cycle rotary gap and disk quenched gaps of Stone, Marconi, Kilbourne Clarke, Chris Lowensteine, Fessenden and others. And the transmitting condensers usually consisting of tin foil sheets sandwiched between glass photographic plates, had defaulted to banks of copper coated Leyden jars, or Dubelair encased mica and and foil condensers. The Coheror had been replaced by the liquid faraden with it's fine silver coated platinum wire, in contact with a tiny cup of dilute nitric acid, often going in and out of contact with the roll of the ship. But the Flemming valve, a adaptation of the Edison effect and simple stress of crystal detector were just coming into their own.

"The Titanic was equipped with a 5 KW disk discharger and a Flemming Valve receiver. Despite such improvements, the normal range of shipboard transmitters of that early period was rather limited: about 500 miles for the huge Titanic, and around one hundred miles for the Carpathia class. Therefore as the collision with the iceberg occurred about mid Atlantic, the actual details of the tragedy were quite slow in reaching the shore."

There will be two more segments of the Joe Danko interview printed in the coming months. Special thanks to the California Historic Radio Society.

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THE C.H.R.S. FOOTHILLS SWAP MEET

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

(By Norman S. Braithwaite)

The California Historical Radio Society (CHRS) held the first of it's four annual swap meets February 28th. Although typically the smallest of the four meets, the turnout was nearly comparable to the last three better attended meets of 1986. There were 28 paid sellers and several booths represented more than one collector. There were well more than twice as many buyers. There was a large variety of sets ranging from WWI wireless gear to high quality 1960s stereo gear. A partial listing of the treasures which I and others saw include:

- A self contained WWI Signal Corps transmitter by Westinghouse,
- Mint Neutrowound battery set,
- Kennedy 5,
- Mint Uncle Al's Miracle Crystal Set No. 1,
- Signal Corps airplane radio direction finder, post WWI,
- Two Philco 90s,
- Peter Pan radio,
- A factory painted white 1937 Zenith console (this changed hands three times very rapidly before finding a permanent home),
- 1936 Zenith chairside with original phono,
- Hammarlund Comet Pro in the rare wood cabinet,
- RME 69,
- Complete E H Scott Philharmonic

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tuner chassis with motor drive tuning (I got this),
- Mint McMurdo Silver (MS) Masterpiece VI (I saw this go from one trunk to another),
- Nice MS Masterpiece V,
- MS Masterpiece VI tuner chassis with cover, poor condition,
- MS Masterpiece V tuner chassis for parts,
- E H Scott Phantom in a Scott console,
- Two Montgomery Wards 62-196 sets with chrome plated chassis and speakers (one of these sold for $250.),
- Macintosh MR-67 tuner and C-20 preamp,
- 1967 Japanese toilet (novelty) radio with a lid that opens! (I sold this for $30.).

In addition to this, there was a large quantity of table model sets of all kinds, battery sets, magazines, books, literature, early parts, desirable 1930s complete chassis and some choice advertising items. One television set showed up but I didn't get a chance to look at it before it dissappeared. One collector informed me that there were 12 to 14 art deco table model radios. I missed seeing any of the catalin or mirrored glass sets which have turned up at the past three CHRS meets. Several sellers, myself included, sold everything we brought to sell. Four sellers whom I know exceeded $500. in sales. The next CHRS meet is May 23rd at Foothill College. This is traditionally the best attended CHRS meet. Hope to see you there.

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Broadcast "Ads" Denounced by DeForest as Outrage

Dr. Lee DeForest, inventor of the audion tube, rebuked broadcasting corporations which rent the air to advertisers, and urged the public to register its protest against this interruption of an evening's entertainment by writing letters to the companies. He made his attack in a talk at a dinner of the Harvard Club.

"In my opinion, it is nothing less than vandalism to turn this marvelous new instrument onto the channels of advertising," he said. " The radio's chief function is to entertain and to educate, and it seems to me, the radio is too fine a thing to be used for advertising purposes. Yet, this tendency to utilize the air for that purpose is rapidly growing. I have just heard that one station is charging almost $1,800 an hour."

Dr. DeForest excused from his criticism the broadcasting of Victor and Brunswick radio stars. The use of their names and the fact, expressed through the microphone, that records of artist's songs that can be purchased are legitimate, in the speaker's opinion. He added, however, that "some of the stuff" broadcast by the offending companies "is nauseating and vulgar."

Although out-and-out advertising over radio is banned by the Federal Government, no action has been taken by the authorities to stop the practice. Dr. DeForest said that if it continues "to outrage the public sentiment" he felt sure the Government would step in.

After his speech Dr. DeForest predicted a decline in radio popularity if advertising broadcasting continues. It will then be found, he said, that the stations that do not "sell" the air will be in demand.

[From RADIO WORLD, March 28th, 1925]

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SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE:

21ZP4C CRT with Deflection Yoke
B & K 1077B T.V. Analyst.
(Display your own personal logo on your vintage TV sets with this flying spot scanner.)
Ray Nelson 3786 SE 8th Portland, Or 97202 (503) 233-5063

RCA model 9K console (p.152 Flick of switch), Well cared for $45.
Norris Jackson 11280 SW Center St, Beaverton, Or 97005 (503) 626-4734

Federal Model "E" battery set.
Best offer
RCA Radiola 18 & 100A speaker $125
10" Crosley table model TV good CRT and complete $50.00
Jerry Talbott, 1440 SW 239th, Hillsboro, OR 97123, (503) 649-6717

Hoffman Mark V 1955 t.v. Chassis with good CRT --FREE--
Dave Brown 22520 SW Hells Canyon, Sherwood, OR 97140 (503) 538-5842

Philco Model 38-4, slope front console cabinet with dial plate (good shape).
RCA Mod 811K console Cab. w/ dial plate
Richard Dielschneider 7040 SW 2nd, Portland, OR 97219, (503) 246-1062

WANTED:

Two audio interstage transformer for a Federal orthosonic Type A battery TRF
Dave Brown (see above)

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1. acquisition of additional property

RAY NELSON:

Beaver Baby Grand Crystal Set in box.
"Radio Owl" timer

JERRY TALBOTT:

1930 Unameter Tube tester, once owned by Long Bros. radio Manufacturing Cornelious, Oregon
1930 "Police-Ear" police frequency adaptor.
American Bosch "Recreator" phono conversion set up.
1950 DuMont radio-Phono-TV Combo.

DICK KARMAN:

A Gilfillin AC-DC portable

JA MAC PRODUCTS

SPEAKER RECONING ALL MAKES

8600 NE Sandy Blvd

Portland,Or 97220

503-252-2929

NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

Regular membership	$15.00
Associate Membership	$12.00

Associate memberships are accepted from persons outside commuting distance of the Portland Metropolitan area.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

PHONE _____

VOCATION _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS _____

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_____

Check here for renewal _____

Mail membership information and dues to the **Northwest Vintage Radio Society** P.O. Box 02379, Portland Oregon, 97202

Membership includes monthly newsletters, ten monthly meetings (all except July & August), two swap meets and two auctions each year, as well as a trading roster of members, and unlimited "unclassified" ads in the **CALL LETTER.**